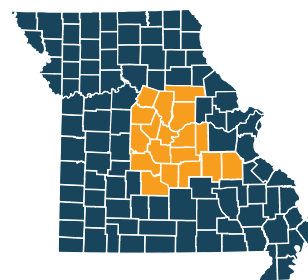


CENTRAL REGION

MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

JANUARY 2025



Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on its outlook over the next decade. Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and current average wages. Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The Central region is projected to have more than 36,600 annual job openings through 2032. The vast majority (95%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations have higher wages and growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 56 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations in the region in 2023 (\$51,646).

Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades

Grade A

1,838 Job Openings
\$80,800 Average Wage

Grade B

23,197 Job Openings
\$50,238 Average Wage

Grade C

9,634 Job Openings
\$41,153 Average Wage

Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Projected to have the most
annual total job openings

over 5,300

Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Most grade A and B annual
openings

over 4,400

Production Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs
Concentration

86%

Top Outlook Occupation Groups

Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	5,394	4,448	82%
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	4,635	2,889	62%
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	3,584	2,735	76%
Healthcare Support Occupations	3,255	1,804	55%
Sales and Related Occupations	2,521	1,692	67%
Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	2,098	1,634	78%
Management Occupations	2,085	1,630	78%
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	1,974	1,338	68%
Production Occupations	1,485	1,275	86%
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	1,485	1,196	81%
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	1,306	954	73%
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	1,238	806	65%
Construction and Extraction Occupations	1,185	695	59%
Personal Care and Service Occupations	1,116	426	38%
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	732	379	52%

Central Region Top Grade Jobs

Now

Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B	Waiters and Waitresses 🔥	1,126	7.3%	\$35,251
B+	Home Health and Personal Care Aides 🔥	1,102	8.4%	\$30,966
B	Stockers and Order Fillers 🔥	1,001	2.5%	\$35,495
B	Retail Salespersons 🔥	944	-2.1%	\$34,197
B	Office Clerks, General	819	4.0%	\$40,859
B	Fast Food and Counter Workers 🔥	756	5.9%	\$28,127
B	Customer Service Representatives 🔥	634	4.7%	\$41,524
B	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive 🔥	633	3.2%	\$38,906
B	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners 🔥	620	9.2%	\$32,316
B	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand 🔥	600	3.7%	\$35,596

Next

Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B+	Cooks, Restaurant	565	7.2%	\$32,792
B	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	533	3.7%	\$39,086
B	Nursing Assistants 🔥	514	6.3%	\$35,733
B	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 🔥	424	-0.6%	\$49,537
B	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers 🔥	394	6.6%	\$37,390
B+	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General 🔥	368	6.8%	\$43,502
B	Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary 🔥	294	8.3%	\$33,784
B	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks 🔥	274	4.9%	\$42,593
B	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers 🔥	254	-0.0%	\$45,793
B+	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers 🔥	249	5.7%	\$59,184

Later

Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2022-2032 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	General and Operations Managers 🔥	774	2.0%	\$86,012
A	Registered Nurses 🔥	418	5.4%	\$74,844
B	Teaching Assistants, Postsecondary	286	8.5%	\$34,626
B+	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	282	8.5%	\$51,656
A	Managers, All Other 🔥	211	0.2%	\$95,202
B+	Accountants and Auditors 🔥	198	2.6%	\$64,901
B+	Business Operations Specialists, All Other	181	1.2%	\$72,529
B+	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	181	8.5%	\$61,653
B+	Human Resources Specialists 🔥	148	5.3%	\$63,630
B	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term	124	8.9%	\$36,919

🔥 Flame icon indicates occupations with the top 20 online job postings in 2023 within>NNL (Now, Next, Later) categories.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC). Lightcast™. Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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